



CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG



The Mayor's Community Development Task Force presents the...

IMPACT Project

Nominated for Lincoln's

2006 Community Development Week Award

Sometimes making the best of the resources you have can make a big impact. That's what Urban Development Department (UDD), NeighborWorks®Lincoln, and Lincoln Action Program (LAP) did with the IMPACT Project. Using just \$20,000 of "leftovers" from a previous, closed-out program, 14 properties in the Clinton Neighborhood received exterior repairs and site maintenance.

From 2000 to 2003, UDD was able to tap into a one-time EDI federal grant and the Nebraska Housing Assistance Trust Fund to set up the CHED housing repair deferred loan program. Those original funds are spent and no longer available, but some of the CHED loans were paid back when homeowners sold their properties.

At about the same time that UDD was looking for the best way to use the recovered CHED funds, Lincoln Action Program and NeighborWorks®Lincoln were looking for a way to improve housing properties within the "Free To

Grow" area of Clinton. The result was the IMPACT Project (Improving Marginal Property with ACTION).

Because of the original sources, these funds were even more flexible than UDD's usual CDBG and HOME funding. Both owner-occupied and rental properties could benefit, which exactly fit the needs of the six block area being targeted by LAP's "Free To Grow" staff.

Within those six blocks, LAP's "Free To Grow" staff went door-to-door, notifying property owners and identifying properties that were in need of repair and pivotal to improving neighborhood self-image. With technical assistance from UDD staff, property owners used up to \$1,500 in the form of a grant for exterior house repair, outbuilding repair, or tree trimming. They could do the work themselves, work with "Free To Grow" volunteers, or hire a contractor.

The property owners and their neighbors were all very pleased with the impact of IMPACT!

For more information about other community development projects in Lincoln, contact the City's Urban Development Department, at 402-441-7606 or email: urbandev@lincoln.ne.gov